REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-43 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-15, 17-24, 26-28, 30-40, 42 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,148,203 to Renko et al. (hereinafter "Renko") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,292,666 to Siddiqui et al. (hereinafter "Siddiqui").

Renko relates to a method for registering a communication device for a communication service. In particular, Renko describes a method for reducing "the time it takes the communication device to find an appropriate carrier and register." (*See* Renko, col. 2, lines 5-6). The device stores in its memory a list of worldwide frequencies used for wireless communications. (*See id.* at col. 2, lines 25- 52). These frequencies are organized by bandmaps which are the comprehensive lists of all frequencies used in a particular region of the world. (*See id.* at col. 4, lines 2-6). One specific bandmap that the device maintains is a learned bandmap which is a dynamic memory list that stores the most recently used frequencies. (*See id.* at col. 2, lines 34- 36).

Upon powering up of the device, it initiates scanning of the learned bandmap to find a primary control channel ("PCCH") (*See id.* at col. 4, lines 26-27). If no the PCCH is found, the device scans the present regional bandmap. (*See id.* at col. 4, lines 31- 34). In particular, all of "the frequencies listed in the present regional map would be scanned." (*See id.* at col. 2, lines 63). Renko acknowledges that the inability to locate the PCCH might be due to a weak signal. (*See id.* at col. 3, lines 7-10). Thus, to reduce the time to find the PCCH, Renko suggests to alternate the scanning between "the last used region map, and successive sections of the complete world wide bandmap." (*See id.* at col. 2, lines 19-21). Once the PCCH is found, the device

obtains information about a broadcast control channel ("BCCH") from the PCCH signal. (*See* id., col. 4, lines 60-61). Then, the device switches to listen to the BCCH in order to obtain a public land mobile network ("PLMN") code. (*See id.* at col. 2, lines 21-24; col. 3, lines 56-62; col. 4, lines 50-55). In other words, the BCCH "will be read (216) to obtain the PLMN code..." (*See* id., col. 4, lines 50-55). The PLMN code includes a mobile country code ("MCC") and a mobile network code ("MNC"). (*See id.* at col. 3, lines 62-63).

Siddiqui determines the location of a Mobile Station (MS) utilizing a Global Positioning System (GPS) location method of a satellite network. (*See* Siddiqui, col. 3, lines 23-40). The satellite network contains a plurality of satellite cells, each of which encompasses a pre-determined area of the Earth. The satellite cells may vary in size, from the size of a small state (approximately 20,000 square miles) to the size of a continent. (*See id.* at col. 4, lines 11-15).

When the MS is within any of the satellite cells, it receives, from the Ground Segment (GS) of the satellite, a cell identification, which corresponds to the local satellite cell, and stores it in its memory module (e.g., a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card). (*See id.* at col. 4, lines 15-21). If the MS moves from one satellite cell into another, the cell identification data received would no longer be the same as the cell identification stored in the memory module. If the MS detects that the stored cell identification is not the same as the received cell identification, then it triggers the location update procedure, where a location updating request is sent to the GS of the new satellite cell for new network identification and registration information. (*See id.* at col. 4, lines 34-48). Once the GS is registered for a satellite cell, it may utilize both the satellite and the GS for communications. (*See id.* at col. 4, lines 49-55). Depending on the location of the GS and the GPS data of the MS, the country which the MS is located and distance away from the border of that country may be obtained.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites a universal remote terminal for use in wireless local area networks in a plurality of countries, each country having particular communications specifications for operating wireless local area networks in that country, the terminal comprising

circuitry configured to:

> scan to find a communication channel carrying a communication for a nearby wireless local area network;
>
> **send a probe communications message on the communication channel in response to finding the communications channel when scanning;**
>
> **receive a reply communications message comprising country-specific information from a transmitter in a particular country that was sent in reply to the probe communications message; and**
>
> adapt to that country's communications specifications to suitably operate in wireless local area networks in that country in response to receiving the country-specific information.
>
> (*Emphasis Added.*)

The Examiner correctly noted that Renko "fails to disclose wherein the country-specific information is received in a reply message sent in response to the remote terminal sending a probe message." (Final Office Action, p.4). However, the Examiner attempts to cure the deficiencies of Renko with Siddiqui. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection.

The present invention as recited by claim 1 is a universal remote terminal for use in wireless local area networks in a plurality of countries which includes circuitry configured to **send a probe communications message on the communication channel in response to finding the communications channel when scanning; and receive a reply communications message comprising country-specific information from a transmitter in a particular country that was sent in reply to the probe communications message**. In the §103 rejection, the Examiner equates the probe communications message of the present invention with the location update message recited by Siddiqui. (*See* Final Office Action, p.3). As described above, the location update message recited by Siddiqui is a part of the location update procedure, triggered only when the

MS moves from one satellite cell into another. (*See* Siddiqui, col. 4, lines 31-48). Thus, the location updating message will only be sent when the MS exits one satellite cell and enters into a different satellite cell (i.e., when the stored cell identification is different from the received cell identification). (*See id.* at col. 4, lines 31-38). On the contrary, the probe communications message of the present invention is sent "on the communication channel in response to finding the communications channel when scanning." The probe communications is sent in response to finding the communications channel when scanning. In Siddiqui, a message is sent when the MS moves from one satellite cell into another. This action is completely unrelated to the sending a message in response to finding a communications channel when scanning. Thus, the location updating message disclosed by Siddiqui is not the same as the probe communication message recited in claim 1 of the present invention because they are triggered by different events. Furthermore, since Siddiqui does not disclose a probe communication message being sent in response to finding a communication channel when scanning, it could not have contemplated receiving a reply in response to a probe communication message. Therefore, Siddiqui does not cure the deficiencies in Renko because it neither teaches nor suggests a universal remote terminal for use in wireless local area networks in a plurality of countries which includes a circuitry configured to "receive a reply communications message comprising country-specific information from a transmitter in a particular country that was sent in reply to the probe communications message." Thus, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §103 rejections to claim 1 and claims 2, 4-11 and 13, which depend therefrom.

Claim 14 recites a method for use in a remote terminal for use in wireless local area networks in a plurality of countries, each country having particular communications specifications for operating of wireless local area networks in that country, the method comprising:

> scanning to find a communications channel carrying a communication for a nearby wireless local area network;
>
> **sending a probe communications message on the communication channel in response to finding the communications channel when scanning;**

receiving a reply communications message comprising country-specific information that was sent by a transmitter in a particular country in reply to the probe communications message; and

adapting to that country's communications specifications to suitably operate in that country in response to receiving the country-specific information.

(*Emphasis added.*)

Similar to claim 1, claim 14 also recites "**receiving a reply communications message comprising country-specific information that was sent by a transmitter in a particular country in reply to the probe communications message**." Therefore, the arguments presented above apply to claim 14 as well. For at least the same reasons as those discussed above, applicants request that the Examiner also withdraw the §103 rejection to claim 14 and claims 15, 17-24 and 26, which depend therefrom.

Claim 27 recites a system for use in a plurality of countries, each country having particular communications specifications for operating wireless local area networks in that country, comprising:

an access point that is operating in a particular country; and

a remote terminal comprising circuitry configured to:

scan to find a communication channel carrying a communication for a nearby wireless local area network;

send a probe communications message on the communication channel in response to finding the communications channel when scanning;

receive a reply communications message comprising country-specific information that was sent by the access point **in reply to the probe communications message**; and

responsive to receiving the country-specific information, adapt to that country's communications specification to suitably operate in that country.

(*Emphasis added.*)

Claim 27 recites similar limitations as those of claim 1. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, applicants respectfully submit that claim 27 is also patentably distinguishable from Renko with Siddiqui. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 27 and claims 28, 30-40, 42 and 43, which depend therefrom.

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 12, 16, 25, 29, 38 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Renko, Siddiqui and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,574, 266 to Haartsen (hereinafter "Haartsen"). There is an inconsistency in the Examiner's rejection. The Examiner rejected claim 38; however, the Examiner argued for the rejection of claim 37 (*See* Final Office Action, p. 8). We believe that the Examiner intended the arguments to support the rejection of claim 38. However, if our belief is mistaken, please promptly inform us of this error. Nonetheless, as discussed above, Renko and Siddiqui do not recite each and every element of claims 1, 14 and 27. Because claims 3, 12, 16, 25, 29, 38 and 41 depend therefrom, applicants respectfully submit that the deficiencies of claims 1, 14 and 27 apply to these claims as well and request that the Examiner withdraw the §103 rejection to claims 3, 12, 16, 25, 29, 38 and 41.

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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